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COUNTRY GermanyREPORT TOPIC Military Information from the Altengrabow Troop Training GroundsEVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

30 November 1953

REFERENCES

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ENCLOSURES (DATE & TIME)

REMARKS

1. between 2 and 13 October 1953, 60 shipments of artillery pieces of various types, sedans, trucks and prime movers were loaded at the Altengrabow railroad station. at least 15 x 152-mm howitzers and about 15 prime movers were entrained at the Altengrabow railroad station. A second shipment was sidetracked at the station. the troops on this train had come from Potsdam. between 2 and 13 October, unusually many individual vehicles were observed en route in the training area. At 1:30 p.m. on 3 October, a column of 1 sedan, about 40 trucks and about 20 trucks towing 85-mm field guns were seen near the railroad crossing southwest of Ziesar, coming from the direction of Altengrabow and proceeding toward Ziesar. Some of the trucks carried billiard equipment, boxes and baggage and about 4 to 12 soldiers wearing red-bordered black anachats. at about 2 p.m. on the same day, 4 trucks towing field kitchens were seen en route in the same direction. the Altengrabow troop training grounds was occupied by about 500 troops after 13 October. Individual sentries were no longer observed in the training area. The area was guarded by patrols.¹

2. the training area was under the authority of the Rathenow post. Soviet soldiers, who worked with the bakery at the training area and had stayed there throughout summer and winter belonged to the komendatura of the Rathenow post. the cooperative shop in Rathenow furnished ration supplies for the administration of the training grounds via a depot located beside the administration building at Altengrabow.

3. On 15 October, truck was seen in Ziesar.

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5. On 1 and 2 November, about 30 to 40 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia were firing with carbines at the firing range in Altengrabow. On 3 November, about 30 troops engaged in field wire laying near the camp. Between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. on the same day, an undetermined number of troops, in the training area, practiced firing with a gun which, at about 7:30 p.m., was towed to the camp by several prime movers. During the firing practice, the area had been restricted. [redacted] 25X1

one Senior Lieutenant Yermilov (fnu) of Unit Polegon belonged to the administration and cadre personnel of the training grounds. [redacted]

1. [redacted] Comment. During the period mentioned, railroad records indicated 34 shipments to the posts and the known exercises of the Eighth Gds Army of artillery units of the IV Arty Corps, the Eighth Gds Army and the Third Shock Army. After the departure of the troops, the quarters were probably only lightly occupied, as the units permanently stationed there most probably also engaged in exercises.

2. [redacted] Comment. Probably a column of the 20th Army AT Arty Brig (US), which, with light elements, transferred to Branderburg by road between 29 September and 4 October. [redacted]

4. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] the training grounds is permanently occupied by units of the 10th How Arty Brig (US) and the 44th Army Arty Brig. [redacted]

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